

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An anvil for providing support to a backed ply material during a cutting operation by an ultrasonic blade, the backed ply material traveling in a first direction, the ultrasonic blade having a cutting profile, the ultrasonic blade being operable to travel along a path, the path being oriented in a transverse manner relative to the first direction, the anvil comprising:

a rigid base for securing the anvil to a cutting assembly;

an inverted "T" shaped channel in the rigid base and coinciding with the path;

a "T" shaped insert to mate with the channel;

a surface on the insert to support the backed ply material, the surface being secured to the base; and

a groove disposed upon the surface and coinciding with the path, the groove having a curved profile corresponding to a tip portion of the cutting profile, the groove providing support during butt cutting operations, slit cutting operations, and taper cutting operations, wherein a backing of the backed ply material is urged into the groove during the cutting operation.

2. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 1, wherein the rigid base comprises a metal.
3. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 2, wherein the rigid base comprises steel.
4. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 1, wherein the surface comprises a metal.

5. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 1, further comprising an insert secured to the base, the surface being disposed upon the insert.
6. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 5, wherein the insert comprises a high pressure laminate.
7. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 5, wherein the insert comprises a polymeric material.
8. **(Original)** The anvil according to claim 7, wherein the insert comprises an ultra high molecular weight polymer.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The anvil according to claim 7, wherein the insert comprises nylon.
10. **(Withdrawn)** A system comprising:
 - an ultrasonic cutting tool comprising a stylus, the stylus comprising a tip; and
 - a drive system that rotates the tip between a first cutting orientation and a second cutting orientation;
 - an anvil comprising:
 - a first surface to support a backed ply material at a first height;
 - a second surface to support the backed ply material at a second height; and

a groove in cooperative alignment with the tip, the groove being disposed between the first surface and the second surface, and disposed along a path traveled by the tip, wherein in the first cutting orientation the tip remains at a stationary location along the groove while the ply material moves in a first direction, and in the second cutting orientation the tip travels along at least part of the length of the groove while the ply material remains stationary.

11. **(Canceled)**
12. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 10, wherein the anvil further comprises an insert, the insert comprising the third surface.
13. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 12, wherein the insert comprises a polymeric material.
14. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 13, wherein the insert comprises at least one of an ultra high molecular weight polymer and nylon.
15. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 10, wherein the groove includes a resilient material that deflects to the third height in response to force exerted by the tip.
16. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 10, wherein the anvil comprises a dimensionally stable, rigid, and wear resistant material.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises a metal.
18. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises a high pressure laminate.
19. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises at least one of a polymeric material and a resin.
20. **(Withdrawn)** The system according to claim 10, wherein the first height and the second height are essentially the same.
21. **(Withdrawn)** A method of generating an anvil, the anvil providing support for a stylus of a cutting assembly while cutting a backed ply material, the method comprising:
 - disposing an anvil blank in the cutting assembly, the anvil blank including a carvable, dimensionally stable, rigid, and wear resistant material, the anvil blank further including an axis disposed in a perpendicular direction relative to a direction of travel of the backed ply material;
 - setting the stylus to contact the anvil blank;
 - drawing the stylus along the axis, wherein the stylus generates a groove in the anvil blank;
 - determining a depth of the groove; and
 - repeating the setting and drawing steps in response to the depth being less than a predetermined minimal depth.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the anvil blank includes a high pressure laminate.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 22, wherein the anvil blank includes Micarta®.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
orienting an edge of the stylus in a direction perpendicular to the axis.